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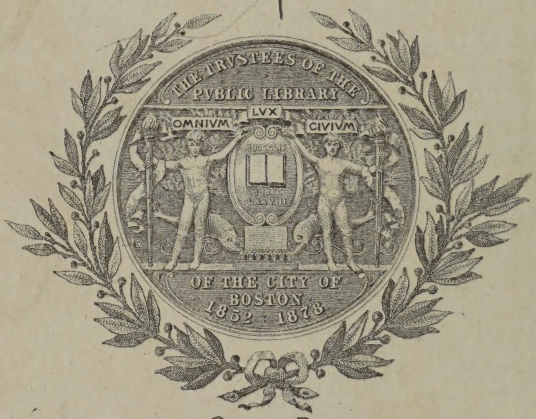

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Memorial Proceedings

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MANUFACTURING CORPORATIONS

MANCHESTER, N. H.,

On the Death of

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George B. Knapp,
May 5, 1902.

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MANCHESTER, N. H., Oct. 7, 1874.

The late GARDNER BREWER, ESQ., was intimately connected with most of the large Corporations located in the city of Manchester, and at the Annual Meetings of the Stockholders held to-day, the announcement of his recent decease was heard with painful regret and received appropriate notice.

Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.

At the meeting of the Stockholders of the AMOSKEAG MANUFACTURING COMPANY, the following Resolutions were offered by T. JEFFERSON COOLIDGE, ESQ.:

Resolved, That the recent death of GARDNER BREWER, ESQ., the President of this Corporation, and for a long time the head of the house that sold its manufactures, demands of his associates an expression upon their records of their appreciation of his faithful services and eminently good character.

Resolved, That by his decease this Company has sustained a heavy loss; that we recall with feelings of gratitude and respect the dignity and courtesy with which he has for some years presided over our annual meetings and social gatherings in this city, and his wise counsels at the meetings of the Board of Directors in Boston.

Resolved, That in his connection with the management of that very important branch of our

business, the sale of our manufactured goods, — the duties of which his firm has so admirably discharged for more than a quarter of a century, — we shall ever remember the exemplary fidelity, the untiring industry, the engrossing devotion, the rare capacity, the sterling integrity and the sound judgment uniformly displayed by him, and to which we are so largely indebted for our success.

Resolved, That to his private worth and his excellence in his social relations, those most intimately associated with him in the transaction of his extensive business bear ready and unqualified testimony.

Resolved, That we offer our heartfelt sympathy to his family in their bereavement; and that the Clerk of the Corporation be requested to furnish them with a copy of these proceedings and resolutions.

Mr. William Amory in seconding the Resolutions made the following remarks :

During the many years of my official connection with this Company — now almost forty years

— I have had occasion several times to announce the death or resignation of some prominently valuable officer, at some annual meeting, and to pay some brief tribute to the memory or services of the deceased or retiring associate; but in the recent death of Mr. Brewer, in the three-fold capacity of President, Director and Selling Agent, the loss we are now called upon to mourn is more severe, and the places left vacant more difficult to fill, than any heretofore occurring in the history of this company.

In that most important of these relations, namely the sale of goods, Mr. Brewer has been usefully and acceptably associated in the management of our business for more than a quarter of a century, and for a long, though shorter, time in each of the others, discharging the duties of all in the most acceptable manner.

Mr. Brewer, by nature and education, possessed a rare combination of those qualities most conducive to the attainment of that eminent position of a sagacious and honorable merchant and

man of business, conceded to him by common consent, and for which he always candidly expressed an earnest ambition. To that ambition to excel, prompting engrossing devotion to a legitimate business, and excluding all outside speculations, Mr. Brewer was indebted for his rare success. He thought that any work worth doing at all was worth doing well. He therefore was thorough himself, and exacted thoroughness from all others in his employment, in every detail of his extensive business, and I can neither do justice to him nor to my own conviction without ascribing to him a large portion of such measure of prosperity as this Corporation has enjoyed for the last twenty-five years. In the short hour allotted to this meeting to-day, I confine my remarks to the business qualities of Mr. Brewer, as more appropriate to the purposes of the occasion, and shall attempt no eulogy on his private worth and public usefulness as a member of society, though if the time allowed and the occasion permitted, it would have been gratifying to my feelings to have embraced in this tribute some encomium, however inade-

quate, of those social virtues and moral excellences which won for him the respect and affection of all who knew him well.

The Hon. Daniel Clark, the presiding officer said :

Ordinarily it would be the duty of the chair at once to put the question of the passage of the resolutions, but I cannot resist the promptings of my own heart to bear tribute to the friend who has passed away.

The leaves come and go upon the trees every year; they burst into beauty and freshness in the spring, they mature in summer, and they fall in gorgeous glory in the autumn. So come the generations of men; they spring into strength in infancy and youth, they mature in manhood and fall and pass away in old age. If the leaves did not fall in the autumn, there would be no beauty and freshness in the spring; so if the generations of men did not pass away, the earth would grow old and decay. It is thus, gentlemen, that we philosophize and endeavor to reconcile ourselves to the

inevitable lot of mankind; and so Death, instead of being a great destroyer, comes to be a renovator of the earth and its population, and keeps it ever fresh and green. Thus we try to reconcile our hearts to death and to the parting with friends. But, though we may try to do it, when a friend dies the heart will ache, the eyes will be filled with tears and the countenance will be sad; and then memory will come with its fond recollection and endeavor to gather up all the honorable qualities of the departed friend and place them upon some permanent record. So we do in this case. Our friend has flown; our friend has gone away from us, and we here desire to remember his great worth and the many noble qualities which endeared him to us.

A year or two ago, Dr. Dean, your president, deceased, and now you are called upon to mourn for another presiding officer. I well remember how, a year ago, he and I passed down the street anxiously conversing of the health of a friend dear to us both, and yet he has gone before. Em-

inently fit is it that we put upon record the worth, the ability and the faithfulness of such a man.

Mr. Brewer as a merchant was active, was upright, was faithful, was keen, was far-sighted, was successful, and in his service of this Company untiring and equally successful. As a citizen he was public-spirited and beneficent. As a gentleman he was courteous, affable and polite.

But it is not my purpose, gentlemen, here to pass any eulogy upon him, because many of you were his neighbors and knew him well. He died in your midst, in the city of his adoption and his activities, and was buried in that beautiful cemetery near his home, and there he rests. But, gentlemen, among all his good deeds which you will remember, and which I will not recount here, there is one to which I will refer, because it will last in its consequences when all that is mortal of Gardner Brewer shall have turned to dust. I refer to his beneficent contribution to all the public libraries of the several villages with which he was connected. I know that when he made his con-

tributions to these various libraries, his object was to lighten the burden of the operative and to cheer his hours of loneliness; and now that he has passed away many a poor toiler in the mills will be cheered by his beneficence, and remember him after his decease.

The vote upon the resolutions being taken they were passed unanimously.

A true record,

E. A. Shaw

Proprietors' Clerk.

Stark Mills.

At the Stark Meeting Mr. William Amory offered the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That in the decease of the late Gardner Brewer, Esq., a severe loss has fallen upon this company, by depriving it of one of the most efficient officers and wise counsellors in its direction for many years.

Resolved, That in his death we are especially called upon to lament a loss in that department of our business—the sale of our manufactured goods—in which we have for many years had the inestimable benefit of his services, and in the faithful discharge of which he exhibited, as in all his affairs, that eminent ability, that promptness and sterling integrity, which characterized him in everything, and which was the source of his own success and the prosperity of all who committed to him the agency of their business.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with his family in this painful dispensation, and that the

Clerk of this Corporation be requested to send them a copy of these resolves.

T. Jefferson Coolidge, Esq., seconded the Resolutions in the following remarks:

Gentlemen: Although we have met here to-day entirely for business purposes, it does not seem to me inappropriate before closing the meeting to say a few words about our late selling agent, Mr. Gardner Brewer.

The prosperity of a company depends very much upon the selling agent. We make the goods, he disposes of them. He comes in contact with the consumer; he feels, as it were, the market, and on his judgment depend both the quantity and the style of the goods we manufacture. He may not inaptly be compared to a pilot, who, standing on his vessel, guides her through the fog of the dim future; avoiding on the one hand the dangers of overproduction, and on the other the still greater perils of bad indebtedness. Between the two lies the narrow and difficult channel which alone leads to successful business.

For these duties Mr. Brewer was eminently qualified. He took the deepest interest in the affairs of the corporation. His industry was untiring; his watchfulness never flagged, and he had the power of inoculating his partners and his subordinates with the nervous energy which influenced himself. He was a man of great prudence and integrity, combined with a very rapid judgment, and, what is rare in a character like his, he was always willing to change his views, if any new facts led him to suppose they were erroneous. You will understand how important this is in following out the incessant changes which the laws of demand and supply and the caprice of fashion perpetually require in the dry goods market. It was also owing to these qualities that he was so good a judge of credits. I do not think I overstate when I say, that I believe no firm doing so large a business for so many years, in New England, has contracted fewer bad debts. By these means he acquired a large fortune, but he acquired it not at the expense of others, but by improving the property confided to his care.

We have all known him; some of us have felt his kindness; others may have enjoyed his hospitality; but I am not here to make his eulogy, I merely wish to express the feeling which I know is common to us all, of deep regret for the loss of so good and valuable a man as Mr. Gardner Brewer.

It is therefore with much pleasure that I lay before you, for your acceptance, the resolutions presented by Mr. Amory. The question is on the acceptance of the resolutions.

The resolutions were passed unanimously.

A true record.

PHINEHAS ADAMS,
Proprietors' Clerk.

Langdon Manufacturing Company.

At the Meeting of the LANGDON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, the Treasurer, in announcing the death of their President, MR. GARDNER BREWER, said:

It becomes my painful duty to announce to you the death of your President. Associated with him so many years, each one of the officers of this company will feel a deep sorrow that MR. GARDNER BREWER does not preside at our meeting to-day. When the proprietors remember with how much anxiety for the success of their enterprise he has given his time and thought, they will join in recognizing the value of his services, and with sorrow will appreciate the loss they have sustained. I propose the following resolutions:

The Stockholders of the Langdon Manufacturing Company, at their annual meeting in Manchester:

Resolve, That they recognize with gratitude the long services of MR. GARDNER BREWER as President and Director of their Company.

Resolve, That they regret the loss of their Director, on whose judgment they have been accustomed to rely, and whose skill and ability in the sale of the products of their mills have contributed largely to the success and growth of the business of the Company.

Resolve, That they mourn the loss of a friend, who has been identified with the interest of the Company from the beginning, and has presided on nearly every occasion of their annual meetings at Manchester.

Resolve, That they sympathize with the family of Mr. Brewer in the death of a husband and father, and while hesitating to intrude on their sorrows, hope that an expression of their appreciation of his many excellences will not fail to gratify them in their distress. They therefore

Resolve, That the Clerk of the Corporation be directed to record and to send a copy of these resolutions to the family.

Mr. William Amory, who presided at the meeting, made the following remarks:

After the several well deserved encomiums that we have listened to to-day at the meetings of the other Corporations in this city, I do not propose to occupy but one minute of your time, but I cannot resist the temptation to say one word.

Mr. Brewer's relation to this Company is peculiar. To his enterprise it owes its birth, and to his fostering care its success. He was more identified with it from its birth to the present time than with either of the other Companies. He was its President, Director and Selling Agent, and in each of those three relations he executed with signal ability all the duties of all the offices that he held. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to supply his place in either of these three relations. In regard to his social qualities he was friendly and kind; as a counsellor wise and prudent, and we shall all of us never cease to lament his loss.

These resolutions were passed unanimously.

A true record,

WM. L. KILLEY,
Proprietors' Clerk.